

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A pigment composition comprising a) at least one pigment, and b) at least one dispersant composition comprising i) at least one nonionic surfactant which is insoluble in water and ii) at least one polymer comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid group which is soluble in water, wherein the non-ionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide that is greater than 90% capped and has a molecular weight between about 2500 and 10000, and wherein the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one organic group.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture thereof.

25. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one anionic group.

26. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group comprises at least one carboxylic group, a sulfonate group, or salts thereof.

27. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the organic group is a carboxyphenyl group, a sulfophenyl group, or salts thereof.

28. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, further comprising an aqueous vehicle.

29. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 28, wherein the aqueous vehicle is water.

30. (Original) The pigment composition of claim 22, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide, the polymer is an ammonium salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid and methylmethacrylate, and the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one sulfonate group.

31. (Currently Amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising a) an aqueous vehicle comprising a water-based resin and an aqueous solvent, b) at least one pigment, and c) at least one dispersant composition comprising i) at least one nonionic surfactant which is insoluble in water and ii) at least one polymer comprising at least one salt of a carboxylic acid group which is soluble in water, wherein the non-ionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide that is greater than 90% capped and has a molecular weight between about 2500 and 10000, and wherein the pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one organic group.

32. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the water-based resin is an acrylic resin, a polyurethane resin, an epoxy resin, a polyester resin, an alkyd resin, or a vinyl chloride-copolymer resin.

33. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the water-based resin is an acrylic latex.

34. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the aqueous solvent is greater than 70% water.

35. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the aqueous solvent is greater than 85% water.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the organic group comprises at least one ionic group, at least one ionizable group, or a mixture thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the organic group comprises an anionic group.

39. (Previously presented) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the organic group comprises a carboxylic group, a sulfonate group, or salts thereof.

40. (Previously presented) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the organic group is a carboxyphenyl group, a sulfophenyl group, or salts thereof.

41. (Original) The aqueous coating composition of claim 31, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a polyalkylene oxide, the polymer is an ammonium salt of a copolymer of acrylic acid and methylmethacrylate, and the pigment is a pigment is a modified carbon product comprising a carbon product having attached at least one sulfonate group.